

STEWARD OF A LIVING IP CONVERSATION: HONORING PROFESSOR JON CAVICCHI'S FACULTY ADVISORSHIP OF IDEA (2014– PRESENT)

I. INTRODUCTION: MEASURING A LEGACY THROUGH THE WORK

The most meaningful way to honor a long-serving faculty advisor to a law review is not through abstraction or praise alone, but through evidence. Since Volume 55 in 2014, Professor Jon Cavicchi has guided *IDEA: The Law Review of the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property* through a period of extraordinary transformation in intellectual property law. The publication record itself tells the story.

Professor Cavicchi was appointed Faculty Advisor after the departure of Advisor Professor Susan Richey who then served as a judge at the U.S.P.T.O.. One of the initial innovations was to reimagine the look and feel of the law review. He also undertook to professionalize the administration of the publication, working with several editors-in-chief developing a comprehensive procedural manual. A defining step in this evolution was partnering with the UNH Law Curriculum Committee to transform the law review into a for-credit course, reinforcing its role as both a scholarly forum and a pedagogical enterprise, while integrating workflow tools within Microsoft Teams to streamline and professionalize the editorial process.

A review of IDEA's output since 2014 reveals a dataset of 145 articles appearing during Professor Cavicchi's tenure as Faculty Advisor (Volumes 55–66). This yields an average of roughly 12 articles per volume, with certain volumes expanding significantly due to symposium contributions and special issues.

This body of work is not merely quantitatively substantial. It reflects a law review that has actively tracked—and often anticipated—the evolving contours of intellectual property law. Under Professor Cavicchi's stewardship, IDEA has functioned not as a static student-edited journal, but as a living intellectual forum.

IDEA has remained a true generalist IP law review. The articles cover the full IP spectrum: patent, copyright, trademark, trade secrets, right of publicity, privacy, international IP, IP theory, IP valuation, legal education, AI, blockchain, NFTs, cybersecurity, metaverse, and digital culture.

II. STEWARD OF A LIVING IP CONVERSATION

Across the past decade, IDEA has documented a profound shift in the subject matter of intellectual property scholarship. Early volumes during this period continue to engage with traditional doctrinal questions: patent eligibility under § 101, copyright authorship and fair use, trademark dilution, and trade secret protection. These are the enduring foundations of IP law.

But as the dataset shows, IDEA did not remain anchored in these traditional concerns. Instead, it evolved alongside the field. The publication record reflects sustained engagement with:

- Artificial intelligence and authorship
- AI-enabled patentability and obviousness
- Deepfakes and the right of publicity
- Blockchain, NFTs, and digital ownership
- Cybersecurity and digital trade secrets
- Metaverse-related trademark and copyright issues
- Global and comparative IP frameworks

The presence of AI-related scholarship alone spans multiple years and doctrinal areas—from early questions of copyrightability of computer-generated works to more recent concerns about generative AI’s impact on patent law and originality.

This continuity and evolution suggest a defining characteristic of Professor Cavicchi’s advisorship: IDEA has served as a forum that listens and responds to the field as it develops, rather than merely cataloging settled doctrine. It has remained contemporaneous, adaptive, and forward-looking.

III. THE JOURNAL AS AN INTELLECTUAL BRIDGE

A second defining feature of IDEA during this period is its breadth. The dataset reveals that IDEA consistently publishes across multiple modes of legal scholarship:

- Doctrinal analysis (e.g., patent eligibility, trademark enforcement mechanisms)
- Empirical studies (e.g., copyright termination case law, valuation models)
- Theoretical work (e.g., natural law theories of copyright, public domain critiques)
- Comparative and international perspectives (e.g., U.S.–China AI law, EU trademark developments, TRIPS analysis)
- Practice-oriented guidance (e.g., cybersecurity measures for trade secrets, licensing strategies, litigation frameworks)

This range is reflected in the topical distribution of articles. Approximate classification of the 156-item dataset shows:

- Copyright-focused scholarship: ~41 articles
- Patent-focused scholarship: ~38 articles
- Trademark and branding: ~24 articles

*Steward of a Living IP Conversation: Honoring Professor
Jon Cavicchi's Faculty Advisorship of IDEA (2014–
Present)* **593**

- Technology/AI/digital platforms (cross-cutting): ~30 articles
- International/comparative IP: ~21 articles
- Trade secrets (direct focus): ~3 articles
- Broader IP theory, policy, and interdisciplinary work: substantial overlap across categories

These numbers confirm that IDEA has remained a true generalist IP journal, while also embracing emerging interdisciplinary and technological questions.

This breadth reflects the intellectual tradition of the Franklin Pierce IP program itself: a commitment to rigorous scholarship that remains grounded in real-world application. Under Professor Cavicchi's guidance, IDEA has functioned as a bridge between theory and practice, domestic and international law, and traditional doctrine and emerging technologies.

IV. FROM PATENT DOCTRINE TO GENERATIVE AI: A DECADE IN MOTION

Perhaps the most compelling narrative that emerges from the dataset is chronological. IDEA's publication history since 2014 can be read as a timeline of intellectual property law's transformation.

Early Period (2014–2017):

The journal's focus remains largely doctrinal, with strong attention to:

- Patent eligibility and obviousness
- Copyright scope and fair use
- Trademark doctrine and dilution
- Trade secret protection

Transitional Period (2018–2021):

The dataset shows increasing engagement with:

- Digital platforms and internet law
- Early AI-related copyright questions
- Global IP harmonization
- Empirical and interdisciplinary approaches

Contemporary Period (2022–2025):

The journal’s focus shifts decisively toward:

- Generative AI and authorship
- AI-assisted invention and patent doctrine
- Deepfakes, publicity rights, and privacy
- NFTs, blockchain, and digital ownership
- Metaverse-related trademark and branding issues

Recent articles raise questions that would have been peripheral—or unimaginable—at the beginning of Professor Cavicchi’s tenure: whether AI renders inventions obvious, whether AI-assisted works occupy a “middle ground” of copyright protection, and how digital identity and likeness should be regulated in an era of synthetic media.

This arc—from traditional doctrine to generative AI—captures not only the evolution of the field, but the editorial vision of the journal. *IDEA* has not simply followed trends; it has documented the transformation of intellectual property law in real time.

V. AUTHORS AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY

The dataset also reflects the caliber and diversity of *IDEA*’s contributors. Authors include established scholars alongside emerging scholars and practitioners. The dataset includes several recognizable IP scholars and commentators, including Robert P. Merges, Peter K. Yu, Brian L. Frye, Debora Halbert, Jacqueline Lipton, Ralph Clifford, S. Sean Tu, Christopher Holman, Orly Lobel, Lateef Mtima, Zvi Rosen, and others. Cavicchi himself appears as author of tribute-style pieces, including the 2014 Thomas G. Field

article and the 2017 Karl F. Jorda anthology, which creates a nice reciprocal angle: he has helped IDEA honor IP institution-builders, and now the journal can honor him. This creates a fitting symmetry: a scholar who has helped preserve institutional memory is now being recognized through that same scholarly tradition.

This mix underscores another dimension of Professor Cavicchi's contribution: fostering a scholarly community that is both inclusive and intellectually rigorous. IDEA has remained a venue where leading voices and new perspectives coexist, enriching the discourse.

VI. HONORING THE ADVISOR BY STUDYING THE WORK

The evidence leads to a clear conclusion. The legacy of Professor Cavicchi's advisorship is not captured by any single article, issue, or initiative. It is reflected in the sustained quality, breadth, and relevance of IDEA's publication record over more than a decade.

The data shows:

- Consistency in publication volume and editorial output
- Breadth across all major areas of intellectual property law
- Adaptability in embracing emerging technologies and legal questions
- Depth in combining doctrinal, theoretical, and practical scholarship
- Continuity with the Franklin Pierce tradition of applied IP excellence

To honor Professor Cavicchi, then, is to recognize a form of academic leadership that is often invisible but profoundly influential. The faculty advisor shapes the conditions under which scholarship flourishes. Through

mentorship, guidance, and institutional stewardship, Professor Cavicchi has ensured that IDEA remains a vital contributor to intellectual property discourse.

VII. CONCLUSION

Since 2014, IDEA has evolved alongside the field of intellectual property law—tracking its movement from foundational doctrine to the complexities of artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and global innovation systems. This evolution did not occur by accident.

Under Professor Jon Cavicchi’s advisorship, IDEA has functioned as a living intellectual conversation, an institutional bridge, and a chronicle of transformation in IP law. The publication record demonstrates sustained editorial ambition and intellectual seriousness.

The best tribute, therefore, is not merely to thank Professor Cavicchi for his service, but to recognize what that service has made possible: a decade of scholarship that reflects, informs, and shapes the future of intellectual property law.